

Book Reviews

The Roentgen Diagnosis of Diseases of the Alimentary Canal. By Russell D. Carman, M. D., head of Section of Roentgenology in the Division of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, and Professor of Roentgenology (Mayo Foundation), Graduate School of Medicine, University of Minnesota. Second edition thoroughly revised. Octavo of 676 pages with 626 original illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1920. Cloth, \$8.50 net.

This book is a complete and exhaustive study of gastro-intestinal diseases from the viewpoint of the roentgenologist.

Not only are the various diseases treated in full, but a great deal of attention is paid to the variation in the position, size, and shape of normal stomachs. It contains all the good features of the first edition and, in addition, has been brought strictly up to date. There is an addition of two new chapters, one on hour-glass stomachs, in which a careful differentiation is made between spasmodic and organic hour-glass stomachs, and the second on pneumoperitoneal diagnosis of the abdominal region. In this latter chapter, the author has carefully pointed out the dangers and contra-indications, and sounds a note of warning that it should be used only as a last resort.

The author, perhaps, has a better opportunity of checking his roentgen diagnosis in the operating-room and at post mortem than most roentgen-ray workers. He is frank in calling attention to his mistakes as well as mentioning his confirmed diagnosis.

Certainly, no one should attempt to make roentgen diagnoses of gastro-intestinal lesions without the aid of this very excellent book.

L. B.

A Text-book of the Practice of Medicine, by James M. Anders, M. D., Ph. D., LL. D., Professor of Medicine, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Fourteenth Edition. Thoroughly Revised with the Assistance of John H. Musser, Jr., M. D., Associate in Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. Octavo of 1284 pages, fully illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1920, Cloth, \$10 net.

The steady progress of its editions indicates the deserved popularity of this text-book. Such books, even with the skilled condensation of the present volume, must increase in bulk, so wide is their range. Here the compression is judiciously done, the student will find all essentials of practice, and the index is good.

Much recent work is reviewed, and due importance given to new work and its bearing on scientific medicine; sections on treatment are brought up to date and adjusted to present knowledge. Room has been made for a fuller discussion of diseases such as typhus, cerebrospinal meningitis, etc., that have acquired more importance during the world war, and there is a careful appreciation of the relation of asthma, etc., to foreign protein. Other sections have been rewritten, and there are new articles on botulism, streptococcal (hemolytic) pneumonia, trench nephritis, wood alcohol poisoning, etc., etc. It will be seen, therefore, that the work is maintaining its well-known standards, and that it offers to the student and practitioner a very complete resumé of our present knowledge of medicine.

H. A.

Psycho-Pathology, by E. J. Kempf, M. D., St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company, pp. 762, 87 illustrations. 1920.

"Ceci est un livre de haute digestion, pour l'esbattiment des Pantagruelistes et non autres."

The unrest and the rebellion of the times show themselves in divers ways. As there are Bolsheviks in Politics, Vers libristes in Poetry, and Tactilists in Art, so there are Freudians and Ultra-Freudians in Psychiatry. The curious amateur is captured by the apparent simplicity of the fundamental idea. All one has to do is to refer all the psychoses and neuroses to a sexual basis. It's as easy as vers libres or a cubistic bust.

But in spite of this apparent simplicity, there seems to be great difficulty in making one's self clear. The reader plows through pages and pages, emerging finally so obfuscated that he wonders if he is afoot or a-horseback. Ideas there are in plenty, and some of them good ones. One cannot but admire the time and labor that has been spent on the work and the keenness with which certain traits in the individual or points in the history have been seized upon, but the jumbled-upness and the truly Teutonic muddiness of expression leave one bewildered at the end.

There are some remarkable interpretations of ancient and modern works of art. In Boeklin's *Todesinsel*, for example, the masses of rock on either side the cove symbolize the thighs, the cypresses, the pubic hair, and the gateway the vaginal opening. There is also the striking discovery that Darwin's lifelong ill health was traceable to masturbation, probably aggravated by that five-year voyage in the *Beagle*. Even to one long-used to Freudian Deutungen, there is a kick coming in the pages of Kempf.

E. W. T.

The Anatomy of the Nervous System, from the standpoint of development and function. By Stephen W. Ranson, M. D., Ph. D., Professor of Anatomy in Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago. Octavo volume of 395 pages with 260 illustrations, some of them in colors. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1920. Cloth, \$6.50 net.

This is a text-book presenting the anatomy of the nervous system from the developmental and functional point of view. Students find a study of structural details by themselves difficult; but when considered in connection with physiology they become interesting. The subject matter is well arranged for the medical student. Difficult conceptions are made clearer by numerous diagrams.

The conduction pathways, so difficult for students to visualize, are shown in numerous drawings. The illustrations are well made and carefully labeled. In fact, every device is employed, which will give the student a mental picture of the subject. A carefully selected bibliography adds much to the value of this work as a text-book.

The author presents his evidence in favor of the unmyelinated fibers of the spinal nerves and dorsal roots as the pain fibers. This is a new conception of the mechanism of pain conduction. The sympathetic system is treated in conformity with the newer ideas based upon its relations to the cerebrospinal system, particularly the vagus nerve. The autonomic nervous system as a functional division of the nervous system is treated in detail, and its important conduction paths outlined. An innovation in a work of this nature is a consideration of important reflex mechanisms, as, for example, in respiration and coughing and vomiting; these reflex arcs are well diagramed.

The book, on the whole, is an up-to-date exposition of a very difficult subject in medicine, and it should facilitate for students visualized anatomy.